

APPENDIX E

WILDLIFE SPOTTING AND MONITOR PROTOCOLS TRUSTEE MONITORING DURING DISPERSANT OPERATIONS

The primary purpose of the trustee wildlife spotter (TWS) is to monitor dispersant operations and provide confirmation that dispersant application operations are being conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures for wildlife protection outlined in the dispersant use plan. Specifically, the trustee wildlife spotter is to ensure that:

- 1) dispersants will not be applied directly to marine mammals within or outside of an oil slick:
- 2) dispersants will be applied in such a way as to avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, the spray of seabirds outside of the oil slick are being treated
- 3) if sea birds and/or marine mammals are present in the dispersant application area, the application of dispersants will be dictated by the first two stipulations.

Although it is the commitment of the RRT that wildlife trustee spotters be used when at all possible, dispersant operations will not be unduly delayed should a trained spotter not be available prior to dispersant application.

The trustee agencies with responsibility for oil spill prevention and response will select one trustee wildlife designee that will observe dispersant application operations and will be located in the dispersant spotter aircraft. It is the role of the trustee wildlife spotter to observe wildlife and assist the dispersant spotter and pilot avoid spraying of wildlife, making notes as necessary and appropriate to document the operation. If inadvertent spray of wildlife occurs, the trustee wildlife spotter should make a note of this (including number of animals, species and location if possible) and include this information in their report to the Unified Command at the end of each dispersant operation. If at any time dispersant operations are not being conducted in accordance with the California Dispersant Plan, the trustee wildlife spotter should report back immediately to the Unified Command.

The trustee wildlife spotter should be properly trained to fulfill the functions required. Such training shall include:

- 1) Identification of marine birds and mammals from an aircraft, with special emphasis on species of concern during a dispersant operation;
- 2) General knowledge of dispersant application policies and procedures and annual training and coordination with operational personnel tasked with dispersant spotting in California;
- 3) General knowledge and understanding of the Incident Command System;
- 4) General aviation and safety knowledge;

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